



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

OCT 6 1999

1154 30 OCT -6 11:27

Mr. Ted Leybold
1413 SE Birch St.
Portland, OR 97214

Dear Mr. Leybold:

This is in response to your letter dated September 22, 1999, addressed to Dr. Henney, regarding antibiotics used in livestock.

Thank you for sharing your concerns with us. The use of drugs in livestock and poultry is strictly regulated. Before any drug intended for use in animals is approved, it must undergo extensive chemical and toxicological testing which must demonstrate that the food from these animals is safe for human consumption. Withdrawal periods for drugs in edible tissues, which are based upon the depletion and elimination of the drug to a safe residue level in those tissues, ensures that the food we eat is safe. In addition, milk discard times are established to ensure that any drug residues in milk are not harmful for human health. If an illegal drug residue is detected, FDA investigates the matter and takes regulatory action, if necessary. FDA believes that our residue monitoring program effectively protects the public from any potentially unsafe residue of animal drugs in meat and milk.

There has been a long-running controversy over the use of antibiotics in livestock feed. Enclosed is a chronology on the use of antibiotics in animal feeds. Please be assured that we take our responsibility to ensure the safety of the food supply very seriously. I am forwarding your letters to the Dockets Management Branch to be part of the record for Docket No. 99P-0485 -- "Rescind Approval of Subtherapeutic Antibiotic Use in Livestock."

Sincerely yours,

Karen A. Kandra

Karen A. Kandra
Consumer Safety Officer
Center for Veterinary Medicine

Enclosure

cc: HFW-1

ANS 4